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Letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué concerning Sierra Leone issued at Addis Ababa on 23 May 2000 by the sixty-sixth ordinary session of the central organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, held at the ambassadorial level.

I should be grateful if you would have the text circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as an official Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Communiqué of the sixty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, at Ambassadorial Level on the Developments in Sierra Leone

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its sixty-sixth Session at Ambassadorial Level on Tuesday, 23 May 2000, in Addis Ababa, to discuss the developments in Sierra Leone.

The Session was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Emmanuel Mandoume-Nze, Ambassador of Gabon to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to OAU.

The Central Organ:

Having considered the situation in Sierra Leone, particularly, the most recent developments relating to the peace process;

Having also heard the statement of Mr. Alhaji Fode M. Dabor, Ambassador of Sierra Leone to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to OAU;

1. *Expresses* deep concern over the recent developments in Sierra Leone, which have undermined the peace process in that country;

2. *Condemns* unequivocally, the mindless actions of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), in taking hostage and killing of the personnel of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and calls for their immediate and unconditional release. In addition, it calls for the return of all equipment, arms and ammunition seized from them, including those earlier taken from the Guinean contingent;

3. *Deplores* the recent conduct of the RUF as a serious setback to the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement and a threat to the peace, security and stability of Sierra Leone in particular and the region as a whole. It warned the RUF leadership that it would continue to undermine the peace process in that country;

4. *Calls* upon the RUF to release all the civilian hostages, including in particular, women and children still held by them as required by the Lomé Peace Agreement;

5. *Takes note* of the Final Communiqué of the Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State Members of Joint Implementation Committee of the Lomé Peace Agreement on Sierra Leone, held in Abuja, Nigeria on 9 May 2000. In particular, it welcomes the recommendation of the Ministers of Defence and Chiefs of Defence Staff of ECOWAS, to send an additional 3,000 troops to Sierra Leone and calls on the international community to facilitate the rapid deployment of those troops;

6. *Expresses* its appreciation to Dahkpanah Mr. Charles Ghankey Taylor, President of the Republic of Liberia, for the efforts he has personally deployed to

secure the release of some of the UNAMSIL personnel, held hostage by the RUF and encourages him to continue with those efforts until all the hostages are released;

7. *Commends* the current Chairman of ECOWAS President Alpha Oumar Konare and the leaders of the ECOWAS Region for their steadfast support for the Government of Sierra Leone and encourages them to continue in their efforts until lasting peace is restored to the country;

8. *Pays homage* to the memory of all those who have lost their lives in trying to restore peace in Sierra Leone and empathizes with the surviving victims of RUF atrocities;

9. *Calls* for the transformation of UNAMSIL's mandate from peacekeeping to peace enforcement and for the provision of adequate logistical support to enable it to carry out the said mandate efficiently and effectively;

10. *Demands* the immediate and scrupulous implementation of the provisions of the Lomé Peace Agreement by the RUF, particularly, those provisions relating to the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme;

11. *Expresses* support for the proposals of the United Nations Secretary-General to broaden the sanctions against the RUF, including measures to counter the illegal trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone and appeals to the United Nations Security Council to give urgent effect to them;

12. *Appeals* to the international community to extend humanitarian assistance to the victims of the conflicts in Sierra Leone.

Addis Ababa, 23 May 2000